

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01584 211134Z

11/14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04

/042 W

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P R 210630Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2017

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

S E C R E T LUSAKA 1584

(C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 2 L I N E 4)

FOR AF/E COOTE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: ZA, AO, EMIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA CONSIDERING AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE TO CLEAR GOODS
STALLED IN LOBITO

REF: LUSAKA 1583

1. MINISTER OF PLANNING AND FINANCE CHIKWANDA RAISED
SERIOUSNESS OF LOBITO PORT CONGESTION (REFTEL A) WITH
AMBASSADOR AT LUNCHEON AUG 20 AND WONDERED ALOUD HOW
SITUATION COULD BE RELIEVED. HE RECALLED 1965 AIRLIFT
BY US AND CANADA MAINLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DURING
RHODESIAN UDI. HE ASKED WHAT WAS PAYLOAD OF LARGE US
CARGO PLANES AND HOW MANY FLIGHTS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO
MOVE STALLED CARGO OUT OF LOBITO. SUGGESTION STRONG THAT
ZAMBIA MIGHT CONSIDER ASKING USG FOR SOME ASSISTANCE
ALTHOUGH MINISTER NOT PREPARED TO GO THAT FAR AT THIS TIME.

2. WE INFORMING MINISTER THAT PAYLOAD OF C-130'S
COMMONLY USED FOR SUCH OPERATIONS IS 22-25 TONS PER
AIRCRAFT AND WOULD REQUIRE FANTASTIC AMOUNT OF 4,000

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FLIGHTS TO CLEAR NEARLY 110,000 TONS OF STALLED CARGO

AT LOBITO. FURTHER, THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY IMPRACTICAL. THUS WE SUGGESTING MINISTER MAY WISH, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, TO SEPARATE OUT BULK COMMODITIES LIKE COKE AND WHEAT AND CONCENTRATE ON HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS LIKE MINING AND OTHER PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT BEFORE ASSESSING HIS AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO OTHER POSSIBILITIES (OCEAN FREIGHT TO SOUTH AFRICAN, MOZAMBIKAN OR TANZANIAN PORTS), ASSISTANCE NEEDS, AND SOURCES OF HELP.

3. WE INFORMED HIM AT LUNCHEON TODAY THAT SUBJECT OF ZAMBIAN TRANSPORT PROBLEMS OUT OF LOBITO NOT NEW, HAVING BEEN RAISED WITH ASST SECY DAVIS BY "TINY" ROWLAND IN WASHINGTON SOME MONTHS AGO. WHILE USG EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH ZAMBIA'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS, MENTIONING USG'S HELP THROUGH AID PROGRAM LOAN, THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF ANY FUTURE COMMITMENTS, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY LUSAKA WAS ASKED TO LOOK INTO ZAMBIA'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS OUT OF LOBITO. CHIKWANDA SAID ROWLAND WAS SPEAKING ON HIS OWN OF ZAMBIA'S NEEDS BUT NOT ON GRZ BEHALF OR AT ITS REQUEST. CHIKWANDA SAID HE HOPED TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER WITH EMBASSY BEFORE LEAVING THIS WEEK FOR GUYANA FOR COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING AND WASHINGTON FOR IMF/IBRD MEETING.
WILKOWSKI

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NNN

Message Attributes

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